GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2353
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007
WASTAGE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 50,000 crore are wasted in the country every year;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some foreign retail giants have shown interest to buy processed food from India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to exploit such offers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) to (f): According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs.58,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post- harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by a developed food processing industry, strengthening of the post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance for development of food processing industry and other promotional measures, plays a proactive and facilitating role for overall development of food processing sector in the country so as to encourage the industry to make quality products acceptable to buyers international market. With huge potential of retail driven demand, many retail giants including foreign companies have shown growing interest in Indian Agri and Processed food products. Government through its schematic and policy support is facilitating better market access to the farmers for their long-term economic sustainability and better choice to consumers.